

NAME	TYPE OF COMMENT	COMMENT
Bob Hansen	Comment Card – Mailed In to CDR (Plenary III)	I farm north of north of Council Bluffs on IA side of river inside & outside of levee. I am concerned about high water levels preventing me from planting my crops. I am on the board of Honey Creek Drainage district high levels will cause the creek to silt in and raise bottom and affect drainage of farm land outside. See enclosed news article. Thank you. <i>(news article from Omaha World Herald below)</i>
James Brucks	Comment made on Website	Dear Mary et al: Thanks for the info, We are 3rd gen landowners in Lower Chariton River Basin and depend very much on the income from said farmland. Also worked at the Glasgow Coop Grain loading facilities for my entire adult life and have helped build grain loading and handling 4 1/2 million bushels of storage and have been very close to the Corps and there many fine Representatives in the Glasgow area.
Bill Bryan	Comment Card – Plenary IV	The Corps must not abandon existing flood control constraints for any reason. This is especially true where there is insufficient evidence of any real benefit to/for a competing project purpose.

Debate on Missouri River flows omits some noteworthy factors

Water, in one way or another, has been much in the news in these parts in recent days.

Water is involved in such things as Omaha's selection as the site of the trials to select the 2008 U.S. Olympic swim team, Missouri River water-flow man-

agement and the question of how best to coordinate supervision of stream flows and underground water pumping in Nebraska.



Harold W. Andersen

From time to time over the next few weeks, I plan to discuss such water-related news, starting today with the continuing controversy over management of Missouri River flows.

Some of us who have followed the issue closely had the impression that a sensible compromise had been reached — or at least was close at hand — between the environmental extremists represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a variety of other interests with a stake in the way the river flow is managed.

But a meeting in Omaha last week demonstrated that the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to insist on spring releases of water, which would flood agricultural lowlands all down the river below the Gavins Point Dam. The Fish and Wildlife Service says such flooding is, in effect, mandated by the federal Endangered Species Act in order to provide spawning opportunities for the endangered pallid sturgeon.

An estimated 160 people attended the hearing. Most were from Missouri, the state with the greatest amount of bottomland along the river. "When you send down your spring rise and Mother Nature sends hers, then us Missouri farmers — we're going to be the endangered species," one Missourian declared.

The news report of the hearing did not indicate that anyone had made this fundamental point: Environmental extremists like to leave the impression that downstream flooding with

spring rises in the Missouri River flow (in the process angering those who benefit from recreational use of upstream reservoirs) is absolutely essential to the survival of the pallid sturgeon.

But the truth is that the pallid's range extends from Montana to Louisiana. It is not concentrated exclusively in a relatively short stretch of the Missouri River below the Gavins Point Dam.

And the U.S. Department of the Interior has been reported as providing \$250,000 for biologists to buy nearly 1,400 acres along the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers in a project intended to protect and enhance pallid habitat.

Also never mentioned is that the primary purpose of the Flood Control Act of 1944 was to reverse the natural high-water flow that created flooding in the spring.

Incidentally, but importantly, isn't it about time that Congress revisited this whole matter of the Endangered Species Act? How about congressionally mandated consideration of the human species, especially when, as in the Missouri River case, the specific locale is far from the only spot where the species can be preserved?

A letter from an Omaha reader with a Hispanic-sounding name, responding to what he said was my "most recent Hispanic bashing," said he's curious "as to how long should it take, or in what order, should an immigrant go about becoming assimilated?"

How long should it take? No longer than it has taken millions upon millions of other immigrants to become assimilated into American society. And the harder one works at it, the less time it would take.

In what order should an immigrant go about efforts to become assimilated? That's an easy one. Start with a real effort to learn the English language, which has been the key ingredient in helping immigrants, including many Hispanics, become Americans rather than simply foreigners living in America.

There is an irony — one is tempted to use the cliché "a delicious irony," but this one has both a taste and a smell that is more repulsive than delicious — in the liberal press continuing to focus on who said what and to whom in regard to the alleged illegal "outing" of CIA employee Valerie Plame.

Some news organizations, which have developed their eager pursuit and usage of "leaks" into an art form, sometimes winning Pulitzer Prizes in the process, now seem determined to ensure that somebody goes to jail for leaks that allegedly were shared with reporters hot in their pursuit of such leaks. These are leaks that the journalists pursued eagerly without regard to whether the leaks were legal or not.

Incidentally, I have not read or heard any story that in any way acknowledges this truism in press manipulation: To help achieve your purpose (in this case, the alleged purpose would be the "outing" of Plame), you don't wait for the random chance that a columnist will call you. You call the columnist.

In the Plame case, all the conversations referred to so far originated with a journalist calling a public official.

Another birthday (No. 82) has passed, which prompts me to tell you of a conversation with Marian sometime or another during the past year.

Marian repeatedly has advised me (regular readers of this space know that she flatly rejects any charge of "nagging") to wear small glasses. After I resisted with an argument like "But I can't read with them," Marian countered, "But they make you look 10 years younger."

So, I responded, they make me look like I'm 71? Big deal. (Yes, I now regularly wear small glasses on social occasions.)

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